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THE HOTEL CHAPERON.

A New Device for Giving Aid and Comfort to Unattended Travelers.

The lone female is, as a rule, treated very ungraciously in Gotham, says the New York Sun. She is looked upon with suspicion, and, if admitted at all to the better hotels, is relegated usually to sky parlors or back bedrooms, unless she comes armed with enough credentials to warrant admission to Buckingham palace or the United States treasury vaults. Under the old regime perhaps these restrictions were a necessity, because women were then carefully guarded, usually too timid to venture on visits to the metropolis unattended, and the lone traveler was frequently an undesirable guest. But within the past decade the American woman has written a new declaration of independence, set thereto her hand and seal and refuses to submit to the tyranny of conventionality any longer.

Nevertheless, however brave a woman is in theory, however contemptuous of masculine superiority, there is something uncanny about arriving in the city alone at night by train, or facing the custom-house ceremony when returning from abroad. Of course she is not afraid. Perish the thought! She is precisely in the condition of the man who wasn't seasick crossing the channel, but kept asking how much farther it was to Havre.

Recognizing the trend of the times a new up-town hotel has hit upon a happy idea for satisfying the revolutionary spirit of the women and appeasing conventionality at the same time by providing a chaperon for ladies who desired to go to town on shopping or pleasure bent. This chaperon, Miss Fletcher, has traveled extensively abroad where lady guides are numerous and the practice of employing them popular. A telegram to the proprietor of the house, notifying him of the time and place of a woman's arrival, or advice from the other side as to the steamer on which a lady has taken passage, insures the traveler the espionage of the chaperon, who attends to her baggage, sees it safely through the custom house, orders the carriage, and accompanies the lady to the hotel. The chaperon who attends ladies to the train or steamer on departure accompanies them on shopping tours or to places of amusement. She keeps herself informed concerning the stock and special sales in the shops and entertainments of all kinds, and has made a study of the places of historical interest in and about the city, which she considers quite as important and interesting, though much less talked of and known than those to which our countrywomen flock so eagerly in foreign cities.

HER WEIGHT IN GOLD.

The Extraordinary Value a Mexican Miner Placed Upon His Bride.

"There is an old lady living in southern California at the patriotic little mountain settlement known as American Flag, who is an object of much interest to strangers from the fact that she is probably the only woman on earth the valuation of whose person was ever literally appraised at her weight in gold," said a New Yorker recently returned from a trip across the continent to a reporter for the Sun. "She is sixty-eight years old now and the widow of one Jesus Castro, a Mexican. The Mexican was one of the first miners who struck a fortune in gold in the pioneer days of California. He lived in the Santa Catalina mountains and returned home more than loaded down with gold dust. He fell passionately in love with his brother's daughter, a handsome girl of seventeen. She returned her uncle's love and consented to marry him. The priest to whom they applied learning of their close blood relationship refused to marry them. Castro offered as high as five thousand dollars for the priest to perform the marriage ceremony, but the offer was refused. Then, as the old widow's story goes, Castro asked the priest what amount of wealth would induce him to marry them. The priest, with the intention and expectation of impressing Castro with the hopelessness of his appeal, replied: "The girl's weight in gold."

"Now the Mexican maiden, while not being overburdened, was well to do in figure for one of her age, but Castro did not even pause long enough to ascertain what her weight might be. He exclaimed: "Good, holy father!"

"Then he ordered scales to be brought, and begging the girl to stand on one side of them he poured glittering gold dust into the other side until the precious stuff balanced the weight of his inamorata. The priest was dumb with amazement, and it was a long time before he recovered sufficiently to say the promised words that made the twain one. Castro had won his bride at the cost of one hundred and twenty-five pounds of his hoarded gold. He had a snug lot left, however, and the story is that he lived long enough to see the time that he would have taken a good deal less than her weight in gold for the wife his youthful ardor placed so great a value on."

When New Zealand Sinks.

It was formerly, say fifty years ago, nothing uncommon for a new island to appear above or an old one to disappear beneath the waves of the Pacific ocean. Such occurrences were sometimes noted as often as two or three times a year,

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and were so common as to hardly excite comment among navigators and scientists. Of late, however, the Pacific has been "pacific" indeed. It will be thirty-six years this coming summer since the last island disappeared, and exactly a quarter of a century since the last new one popped up its head in the "greatest of oceans." But geologists argue that this is a suspicious silence, an omen of some monstrous catastrophe, that Dame Nature is simply resting for a mighty effort. Sir Sidney Bell even goes so far as to predict that the whole of New Zealand and the greater part of Australia will be engulfed before the end of the year 1925.

CHARACTER OF TO-DAY.

Speculations on a Universal Composite Photograph. Were It Possible.

If an omniscient camera could catch for our eyes a composite face in which the virtues and the vices of sixty million human beings found true and unmasked expression, what should we see there? Intellect there would be, high-browed and keen-eyed, emphasizing with a fearful intensity the struggle of contending emotions. An honest face? Yes, according as it expressed loyalty to the ordinary laws governing the dealings of men. But there is a gleam of shrewdness, too, that is not altogether frank and candid. And these other expressions, lights and shadows signifying a thousand things, what are they and who shall translate them? Courage, self-reliance, generosity, self-denial, flash out amid the shadows of weak indulgence, greed and sensuality; and do the virtues or the vices predominate?

It cannot be denied that the general trend of thought in these days of rapid evolution must have an important effect upon the physical and intellectual life of the nation. I see no sign of danger yet in the broader soul liberty which has come in with the last years of the century, writes H. R. Chamberlain in the Chautauquan. It is a liberty which does not mean license in any sense. It has driven out of the moral code all suggestion that pleasure as such is open to suspicion of a vicious taint. Asceticism has disappeared, but a higher recognition of our duties to our fellow-men has taken its place.

With the tremendous influence of religious sentiment tending in this direction, the effect upon the moral convictions of the people at large cannot fail to be uplifting. We have scarcely felt or recognized yet the practical manifestations of this salutary influence. I believe they will be potent when developed and that they will re-enforce abundantly some of the neglected divisions of the army of virtue.

TOY DOGS OUT OF FASHION.

Three Queer Stories About Them the Truth of Which is Vouched For.

Toy dogs have gone out of fashion, fortunately for the reputation for sense of a great many women who were tempted to do very foolish things while the craze lasted. Stories of these little autoerats are still floating about. Here are three whose truth is solemnly vouched for by the New York Times: At a luncheon at which were present three women of one family—a mother and two daughters—it was noticed that every one of the three declined the little articles of dessert, jellies, cakes and the like, and the neighbor of one of them had the curiosity to ask the cause. "O," was the reply, "poor little Marquis was ill all night, and as the dear little soul may not have any of these goodies he loves so dearly, we just haven't the heart to take any ourselves."

Story No. 2 was of a tardy pair at a formal dinner. When the company of guests had waited nearly half an hour and at last the hostess gave up the missing ones and all were seated at the table the pair appeared. The explanation from the wife was that "it was quite too bad, but Bijou would not let us leave, and we had to wait until the little fellow was asleep."

The third tale is of a dog whose sickness and death created intense excitement. The absent husband was pursued all day with telegrams, baby was sick, baby was worse, baby was dying, and finally baby was dead. Then came a private funeral of more or less ceremony, and afterward baby's mistress appeared in conventional mourning.

It is certainly time that toy dogs went out of fashion.

Black Diamonds.

Mr. Worldlywise—I wonder if these jet ornaments and passementerie on ladies' cloaks and wraps are not made from coal.

Friend—Why do you ask? Mr. Worldlywise—Because if they are made of coal, and coal goes up to what it was last year, I'll shove my wife's jewelry and dresses into the stove and save enough money to pay for my liquor and cigars.—Texas Sittings.

Don't Know Columbus.

"What happened four hundred years ago this year?" asked Freddie's teacher. "Don't know," answered Freddie. "I'm only seven years old."

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